GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:8
ANSWERED ON:16.11.2016
Radiation Plant
Noor Smt. Mausam

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce radiation plants in selected locations in the country to check post-harvest losses and if so, the details thereof;

(b)whether any requests/proposals have been invited by the Government in this regard and if so, the details thereof;

(c)whether Russia has been selected in a JV to establish radiation plants in the country and if so, the details thereof; and

(d)whether any incident of radioactive contamination has been reported in those countries that have availed this technology and if so, the details thereof alongwith action taken by the Government to ensure fool proof technology?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR, PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND PRIME MINISTER''S OFFICE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH):

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. As per Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) vision for the next 15 years, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) is intending to introduce radiation plants at several places in India in a phased manner. These will efficiently reduce the post-harvest losses of different types of rhizomes, spices and fruits.

(c)The Department is not aware of any Joint Venture (JV) with Russia to be set up Radiation Plant. However, according to some print media sources, such JV with Russia has been planned by some private entrepreneur. However, setting up these plants is subject to clearance of Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) and BARC.

Currently there are 15 food irradiation plants in India among this two have been set up by Government of India, one by Maharashtra Government and the rest 12 by private entrepreneurs. New Radiation Plants are going to be established by private entrepreneur with the help of Board of Radiation and Isotope Technology (BRIT), AERB and BARC.

(d) There is no report of radioactive contamination in food irradiation plants all over the world. For the plants in India, DAE ensures complete safety of the plants after careful consideration of all safety aspects by experts available in the Department and AERB.

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